JANUARY 2012 ISSUE NO. 490

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

A Ham's New Year Resolution

by Marty Young W4MY

What a novel idea, I know everyone is just biting at the bit to hear my new year's resolution for 2012. But wait! This one has to do with Ham Radio, so hopefully I haven't lost more than half of you already.

I've been a ham for a long time now. Its not that I have "done it all" but it sure seems like it. I won't bore you with all of my exploits, DXCC, WAS, gold star award for public service, and all of that. Just suffice it to say that for a little while now, radio has been getting a little stale for me. This hobby that has been in the forefront of my thinking awareness for all of my adult life (and most of my youth) just isn't sparkling like it should right now.

What to do? The sunspots are finely coming back and now would be the time to start chasing DX in earnest. The calendar of public service events has an event just about every weekend in 2012. Maybe another contest? I am going to be busy this year with RARSFest, Dayton, NC QSO Party, GA QSO Party, RARS speaker in September, and all of that is well and good. But that's just "more of the same". All well and good, but I need to do something different, something I haven't done before in Ham Radio.

I remember hearing Karl W4CHX, talk about how much he would like to see greater participation of RARS members in the various club activities. (Continued on page 5)

Next RARS Meeting: January 3

7:30 PM: "Amateur Television (ATV)"
by Mark Freeze WD4KSE.

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are $18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay $5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are $12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are $9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).

The *Exciter*

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS (editor@rars.org)

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month
Location: First Alliance Church
4400 Buffaloe Road
Raleigh, NC
Time: People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

RARS Monthly Dinner

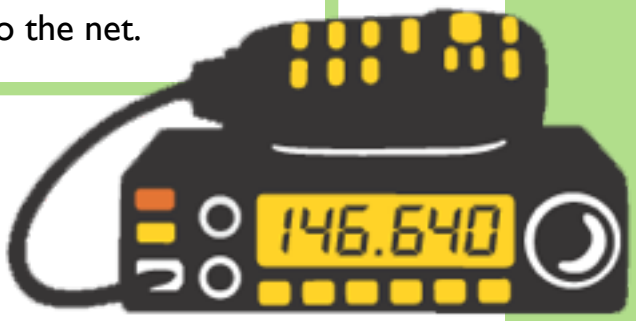
Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

146.640 & 443.625 (88.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.



VE TESTING

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your $14 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

January Birthdays

Bob	N4GEB	1/1
Alex	W3XXX	1/2
Howard	KI4GNB	1/3
Jerry	KE4TTS	1/4
Chuck	K4HF	1/4
John	N4YRD	1/8
Jim	N4CAE	1/9
Beth	KF4QMR	1/9
Paul	KE4TMN	1/10
Jim	KI4NQU	1/11
Paul	AA4XX	1/14
Joyce	KJ4LKQ	1/18
Johnnie	WA9SZL	1/19
Marc	W4MPS	1/19
Little Ashby	KB5ZIH	1/20
Deb	KI4VVE	1/22
Ken	AC4RD	1/23
Dale	WA4JCK	1/26
Ken	KI4OTO	1/28
Alan	AB4OZ	1/30
Cyndi	KD4ACW	1/30
Tom	K2UCU	1/31

November 2011 RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 490
Traffic: 31/25
Minutes: 595
Sessions: 30

Special Interest Nets:
Checkins: 90
Minutes: 230
Sessions: 9

Upcoming Hamfests

1/14 TechFest
Lawrenceville, GA
http://www.gars.org/joomla/index.php

1/20-1/21 Cowtown Hamfest
Fort Worth, TX
http://www.cowtownhamfest.org/

1/24 Winston-Salem FirstFest
Winston-Salem, NC
http://www.w4nc.com/

1/27-1/28 Capitol City Hamfest
Jackson, MS
http://www.msham.org/hamfest.php

1/28 Winterfest - St. Louis Hamfest
Collinsville, IL
http://slsrc.org/

1/29 20th Annual TUSCO ARC Hamfest
Strasburg, OH
http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/

New RARS Members

Vinny Florio, Jr.	N2RTF
Luz Florio	W2LUZ
Allen Gambill	KK4ETT
Magnus Hedemark	KI4OTK
JC Barker	KA2WOB

A Ham's New Year Resolution (Continued from Page 1)
by Marty Young W4MY

Every club president that I've ever known has had that desire. So I have decided to take on something brand new for me. I'm going to start contributing regular articles to the *Exciter* each month about what I'm thinking about regarding Ham Radio. I love this hobby, really. Anyone who knows me will tell you I am absolutely eaten up with enthusiasm about radio. The art, techniques, camaraderie, all that makes radio what it is. I love to talk about it, read about it, and now... write about it!

So that's what I'm going to do to rekindle the fire I know is in me. Why don't you take a minute to think about doing something new in ham radio this year. If you are into public service and been doing it a number of years, continue to do so. But what about setting up an HF station this year and work some DX? (For Technicians, 10M is hot and will remain so for the foreseeable future.) If you like repeaters, how about the 6M repeaters, or even the 10M FM repeaters around 28.6MHz? Or VHF small signal SSB? Here's one, learn CW! Wow, that's a challenge, but wouldn't you like to copy the CW repeater ID's so you could recognize a 2M band opening with a repeater signal coming in from Tim-buck-to? Have you ever helped with RARSFest? Have you ever worked HF mobile? Have you ever done a public service event?

So, like me, if ham radio is getting stale for you, try something new. I am, and I hope you do too.

Minutes of the December 6, 2011 RARS General Meeting

Minutes by Bob Chew KI4YXM

1. Guests (pre-meeting): Karl W4CHX introduced the guests attendees: He encouraged the RARS Members to greet and welcome our guests.
    a. Joan Agnor
    b. Paul Burke, Jr
    c. Patrick Burke
    d. Ruby Burke – KC8AWU
    e. Ben Griffin – KJ4DEM

2. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by Karl W4CHX.

3. Approval of minutes: The Minutes of the RARS General Membership meeting on November 1, 2011 were approved.

4. Vice President's report (CJ KJ4OBQ): Jan meeting topic is ATV. Introduces the Encore Singers.

5. Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): 287 Members. If any RARS member has any questions, please contact Greg KE4PAX or Karl W4CHX for further information.

6. Announcements (Karl W4CHX): 12/13/11 RARS Dinner; Next Board Meeting is 3rd Tuesday of Jan, 2012;

    a. RARS Dinner: second Tuesday, 12/13/11), 6:30 PM, Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue (Hwy 70), monitor the 146.64 repeater on Tuesday (12/13) for any update information.

    b. RARS Board meeting: the RARS Board will not meet this month.

    c. After meeting gathering: The after meeting gathering will be held at Applebee's, Six Forks and Wake Forest Roads (by the Costco)

    d. Upcoming hamfests: Winston-Salem FirstFest, Winston-Salem, NC (1/24). The members were advised to see the current issue of the Exciter or the ARRL website for information on other, upcoming hamfests.

Installation of elected officers and committee chairs (Chuck K4HF): The following were installed as club officers for the year 2012.

(Continued on next page)

President Karl Bowman W4CHX
Secretary Bob Chew KI4YXM.
Public Service Director John Snellen AI4RT,
Public Information Officer Chuck De Court W3WZN,
RARS 2012 Hamfest Chair Jon Snellen AI4RT,
RARS Exciter Editor Courtney Enzor KI4HOS,
RARS Net Manager Mary Holschneider KG4OQA,
At-large Director Don Downs WA4AVU,
At-large Director Jack Foster N6UYB,
At-large Director Ken McEwen KI4OTO,
FM Repeater Chair Karl Bowman W4CHX,
W4DW & W4RNC Trustee Jeff Wittich AC4ZO,
ARRL Liaison Chuck Littlewood K4HF,
Education Director Virginia Enzor NC4VA,
RARS Web Master Hank Montgomery K4HM.
Committee Chair persons as follows:
RARS Hospitality Chair Mary Jo Littlewood K4MJL,
RARS 2012 Field Day Chair Bob Starkenburg W4TTX
RARS Volunteer Exam Coordinators Liz & Joe White KO4CK &WA4GIR resp.

7. Reports from RARS Board members and others:
   a. John Snellen: RARS Fest is on 4/7/12. We need youth lounge Volunteers.
   b. John Snellen: Public Service events Did 13 in 2011. Larry & Blanch Dean of MSFits Society Presented Plaque to RARS for outstanding support of events in 2011. They reported that "Making Room for Turkey" had an $11k gross.

8. Drawing: The winners were: Bill Agnor K4HVH & Charlie WB4DCM.

9. Program: The Encore Singers performed selected seasonal songs.

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM by Karl W4CHX.

Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The **Wake County ARES Net** meets Thursdays at 8:30 PM on the 146.640 repeater. We provide discussion training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out www.wakeares.org.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www. carolina440.net.

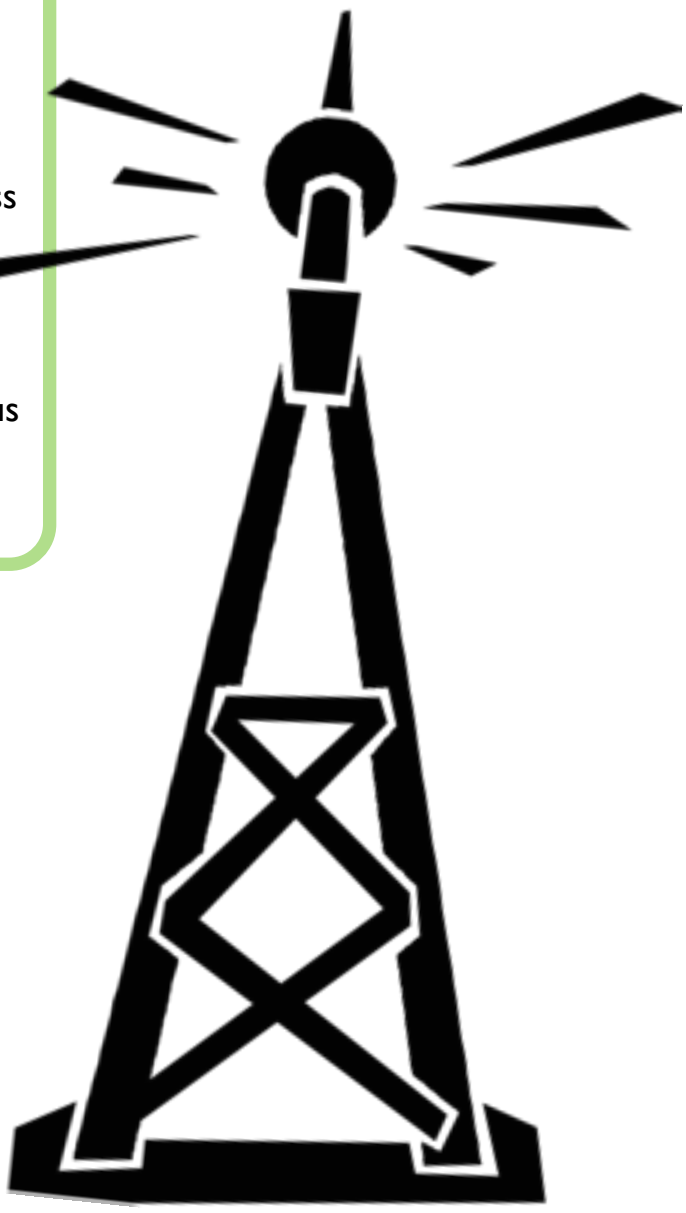
Local Amateur Radio Nets

The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 at 8:30 PM.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.

Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.



RARS Classifieds

Looking to add a new radio to your shack? Have an antenna for sale? Browse the RARS classifieds for new and used radio equipment at http://rars.org/classifieds.php.

RARS members are welcome to post notices about equipment they are selling. Posts last for 30 days and are editable at any time.

Using our classifieds is a great way for buyers to search for available items and for sellers to reach a local, targeted audience.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's EXCITER

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